

while the quality of Röntgen ray he employed readily penetrated the phosphatic calculi and biliary calculi.

Repeating the experiments on the cadaver, his results coincided with those of the earlier observers. The more opaque calculi could be shown, but the less opaque were readily penetrated and could not be detected.

His conclusions are the same as those of the earlier observers, that the positive diagnosis is the only one that can be relied upon, as certain calculi may be present, but cannot be detected.

[This author probably employed a "hard" tube, and in consequence penetrated the less opaque calculi. Clinical experience has recently demonstrated that an absolute diagnosis, both positive and negative, can be made. Sufficient Röntgen discharge can be developed in a "soft" tube of the latest design to penetrate the lumbar region, and yet the quality of the light is such that it will differentiate between the lesser densities, and show all forms of calculi in contrast to the surrounding structures.]

Coxa-vara.—In reporting a case BRUN (*Revue d'Orthopédie*, November, 1898) says that coxa-vara is revealed by defects in the manner of walking. The child stumbles at every step, especially if he is permitted to walk alone. By careful concentration of the mind upon the walking he is able to correct the defects. The walk is like that of double congenital luxation. The case reported was mistaken for this. The author could not, however, locate the heads of the femora, and in order to be more certain had a radiograph taken. The diagnosis was thus cleared up. The fact which the author would call particularly to notice is that the radiograph has given positive knowledge of the existence of this deformity.

KIRMISSON (*Ibid.*), in discussing the same subject, says that a series of carefully studied and reported cases in which radiographs are employed are essential before the origin of this deformity can be definitely determined. There can be no doubt that there are various causes for it, but the only way to determine what they are is the collection of a large number of cases.

To the causes already enumerated he would add fracture of the neck of the femur, which he believes is less infrequent than has been supposed. It is not possible to make the diagnosis of coxa-vara without the employment of radiographs, no matter what the clinical conditions are that are present in the case.

In making a résumé of his work upon this subject, FABRIKANTE (*Revue de Chir.*, November 10, 1898) says:

1. The affection commonly called coxa-vara is most frequently of rhachitic origin, and is characterized by an incurvation of the neck of the femur.

2. This incurvation may consist (a) in a deviation of the neck of the femur downward, with the angle between the neck and the shaft of the femur diminished; (b) deviation in advance or backward, with a coincident curve in its longitudinal axis.

3. The greater the curve the less result can be hoped for from orthopedic treatment.

4. In cases requiring operative treatment the preferable thing to do is to remove a wedge-shaped piece from the neck of the femur; its base should be upward.

5. In cases admitting of orthopedic treatment the best method is to employ massage and extension by very small weights, in order to avoid spasms in the muscles.

6. The extension should be employed only during the night. This is not fatiguing for the patient, and does not prevent his getting about during the day.

7. The high shoe is useful only in chronic cases, but it should not be forgotten in treating these cases.

8. The treatment other than local should be carefully directed toward counteracting the rhachitic tendency.

The Importance of the Radiograph in the Diagnosis and Treatment of the Deviations of the Spinal Column.—REDARD and LARAU (*Revue de Chir.*, November, 1898, Supplement) reported to the French Surgical Congress their results in the diagnosis of different forms of deviation of the spinal column by means of skiagraphs. They have found this method of diagnosis very valuable.

In Pott's disease they have demonstrated the foci of disease both in antero-posterior and lateral views. The initial lesions are detected in this manner. In many of their cases this was accomplished very early, and this early diagnosis made it possible to institute treatment at a period before the subjective and objective symptoms were sufficiently marked to make the diagnosis possible by other means.

The radiograph shows how many vertebræ are affected and to what extent. It also shows the extent of the lesions, the loss of substance, the existence of sequestra and tubercular cavities, the degree and cause of the reflection of the thorax. In cases in which the abscess had been treated by iodoform injections the size of the abscess and its shape could be clearly shown.

Radiographs taken at different periods mark the progress or regression of the disease. The results of treatment and the necessity of further interference are clearly demonstrated.

In many instances in which the deformity had been corrected it was seen that the bones had been united in a good position. The union by interfragmentary or peripheral callus of one or more vertebræ was often visible in the negatives. The radiographs have demonstrated, as have anatomical specimens, that in many recent cases a complete cure can be effected.

In cases of scoliosis the deformities can be studied with benefit in this manner. The position and amount of deformity of the individual vertebræ can be carefully noted. The asymmetry or deformities of the vertebral arches can be studied. The callus uniting several vertebræ can be seen in many cases, while the exact details make it possible to determine the cause of the curvature and make a certain prognosis.

Not only is the shape of the individual vertebræ readily studied, but the internal structure of the vertebræ, the striation of the osseous tissue, the condition of the epiphyseal cartilages, etc., are shown.

Hydatid Cysts of the Kidney.—HOUZEL (*Revue de Chir.*, September 10, 1898) says of the diagnosis of this disease of the kidney that it can be made only by exclusion, and that we must search among the subjective and objective symptoms for those that are convincing.